

Chiropractic Psychopathic Sanitarium: Davenport IA Source: Todd Waters
(Found on the web. Have not verified contents.)

The Chiropractic Psychopathic Sanitarium opened in May 1923 on the land that had previously been the site of the local tourist camp known as Forest Park. The Chiropractors offered \$35,000 for the 25-acre site and its buildings. *[see following for more on the sale]* The park could trace its roots to about 1863 when the tract of land, subsequently known as Schuetzen Park, was financed by pioneer German merchant Jens Lorenzen. The original Chiropractic Psychopathic Sanitarium was opened in the fall of 1922 in a residence at 15th St. and Grand Ave. But a few months later, the Forest Park property was purchased from the Davenport Shooting Association and extensive improvements were begun necessary to making the property suitable for sanitarium purposes. The original announcement of the purchase was made on April 4, 1923 and the chiropractors, in an attempt to quell public objection, claimed that the park would remain open to the public as a playground and pleasure resort, and that picnics, dances and other events would be held there in the future as in the past. The chiropractors also granted a continuance of shooting range privileges to the Davenport Shooting Association for an undetermined amount of time, with any request for revocation requiring one year's notice. However, the purchasing syndicate expected to treat a large number of shell-shocked victims of the World War there with the distinct possibility that the use of the rifle range might not harmonize with the treatment of such class of patients. In late April, after a tour of the remodeled facility, a grand jury found it to be entirely unsuitable in every way for the care of feeble minded, and a menace to life! G. Frutiger, its founder and president was released of his duties as adjuster in that institution and resigned as its president on Oct. 6, 1924. He went into private practice in the Whitaker Building at Third and Brady streets. Nonetheless, the sanitarium became the first Chiropractic facility in the world to deal with the treatment of mental disorder. According to the management, "patients come to Davenport raving maniacs and in a short time are restored to health and happiness, perfectly normal, ready to take up life's duties where they were interfered with when they became mentally deranged." Dr. Gerard M. Pothoff, pictured here, succeeded Frutiger as president. During the time the facility was in operation, escapes of inmates were not unusual. For example, in July 1927, Gilbert Marks, 25, escaped from the sanitarium and was shot to death late in the evening on Aug. 16, while prowling on a farm eight miles northeast of Moline. In 1925, a month after his release, Jacob Goland of Chicago, returned to his father's home where he stabbed four victims including his father, mother and brother, some very seriously, if not fatally. Another unfortunate occurrence happened in August 1927, when the old wooden Schuetzen Park bandstand on the sanitarium grounds caught fire and was destroyed. The loss was estimated at \$8,000, but was fortunately, if not conveniently, covered by insurance. At the same time, a major expansion was completed, when a new hall and heating plant was placed into service at a cost of \$120,000. The two-story brick and granite building which was erected on the spot that was formerly occupied by a roller-coaster, was 120 feet long and 40 feet wide, and furnished accommodations for offices and the boarding of 75 additional patients. The granite used in the structure was recovered from the former American Commercial and Savings Bank building. At that time, the sanitarium was currently treating 126 patients suffering from some form of mental disorder or epilepsy. By Dec. of 1927, the improvements and changes in the old Forest Park property that had been made, transformed the site to the point that those who knew the property as the leading and oldest pleasure resort in Davenport, would scarcely have recognized it. Roads had been built, sidewalks put in, buildings remodeled, ravines filled in, underbrush cut and new buildings constructed, until but little of the original Forest Park remained. Since the original incorporation in Oct. 1922 until 1927, they had handled over 1,000 patients. By 1929, the chiropractors were claiming 76% success results with the insane and almost 100% recoveries in epilepsy! In March 1929, Dr. Gerhard Pothoff, president of the facility, was arrested and charged of inciting to murder his partner R. W. Scott, secretary and treasurer of the Chiropractic Psychopathic Sanitarium. Eventually, a grand jury would dismiss the charges and clear his name. The facility remained open through 1939, its physical address listed at that time as the west side of Waverly Rd. below Locust St. In 1940, the facility name was changed to the Forest Park Sanitarium. In 1953, it became the Davenport Psychiatric Hospital and in 1956, it was again renamed to the Forest Park Hospital. The property was sold in 1960 and the facility reopened in 1967 as the Good Samaritan Home.

Clear-View Sanitarium was a different Chiropractic facility. Source: Todd Waters (Chiropractic History FB)

From Sharon Hesse via Chiropractic History FB:

This is now part of Good Samaritan complex, called building one. Though it's referred to as the Alzheimer's unit they look after those with a variety of dementias.
[700 Waverly Rd, Davenport, IA 52804]

From John Wolfe via Chiropractic History FB:

Roger Hynes has a paper in Chiropractic History with plenty of info on this place. My grandfather's partner, Frank P. O'Donnell left his Minneapolis practice to take over as manager in 1926. Don't know how long he stayed.

From Davenport Iowa History FB (Doug Smith – administrator):

Schuetzen Park Bandstand and Picnic Grounds – Circa 1908

Unable to overcome the loss of revenue due to prohibition, Schuetzen Park, or Forest Park as it had been renamed, was sold to a group of chiropractors in 1923 and became the site of the Chiropractic Psychopathic Sanitarium. *[see following for more on the sale]*

Though not torn down, in August 1927, the old wooden Schuetzen Park bandstand on the sanitarium grounds caught fire and was destroyed. The loss was estimated at \$8,000, but was fortunately, if not conveniently, covered by insurance. At the same time, a major expansion was completed, when a new hall and heating plant was placed into service at a cost of \$120,000. This two-story brick and granite building, which was erected on the spot that was formerly occupied by a roller-coaster, was 120 feet long and 40 feet wide, and furnished accommodations for offices and the boarding of 75 additional patients. The granite used in the structure was recovered from the former American Commercial and Savings Bank building that had been razed. At that time, the sanitarium was treating 126 patients suffering from some form of mental disorder or epilepsy. By Dec. of 1927, the improvements and changes in the old Forest Park property had transformed the site to the point that those who knew the property as the former pleasure resort, would scarcely have recognized it. Roads had been built, sidewalks put in, buildings remodeled, ravines filled in, underbrush cut and new buildings constructed, until but little of the original Schuetzen Park remained.

In 1960, much of the property again changed hands to the Davenport Good Samaritan Center, which continues to this day as a nursing home. This historic area located off of Waverly Road is being preserved as a "Wildpark" and still holds annual events to pay tribute to what was once know as "One of Nature's Fairest Spots." Ironically, the only original building remaining is the street car station, named a local historic landmark by the City of Davenport in 1998. The Davenport Schuetzen Verein continues as an active organization and is recognized as the oldest continuously operating German Shooting Society in the United States.

From Chris Jens via Davenport Iowa History FB:

When the park was sold it was a 10 year contract sale. The sanitarium was chronically slow in making payments. The German-American Savings Bank, where the Shooting Association had all it's funds, closed in 1931 taking the funds with it. But the Association continued to receive payments on the contract until it was paid off in 1938.